

Remarks

Claims 8-14 and 18-24 were withdrawn because of an election of species/restriction requirement. As to the method Claims 19-21, they are retained in the case pending filing of a divisional application, if Applicants elect to do so.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 8-14 should be included in this case, since claims which are generic are believed to be allowable. Note that the species claims all call for a cushioning member having a non-cut pile along a partially cut through pile between the base members.

Claim 8 only adds another limitation of a film the base members (shown as 80 in the drawings). This is also examinable in this case.

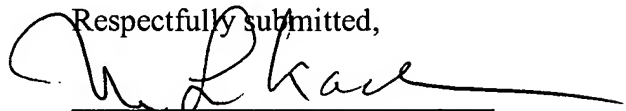
Claim 18 defines the frame work in the preamble and includes the limitation of the generic claims. Thus, it should be included with the other apparatus claims in this case. Compare Claims 1, 16 and 17.

Claims 1-7 and 16-17 were rejected as anticipated by JP 11-247552. Since this patent shows only fully cut pile cushions for a shutter, it does not anticipate the claims since they call for the cushions to be provided by side by side cut and non-cut pile sections. The amendment clearly rules out all the piles being cut. As the Examiner indicates in the last sentence of the second paragraph of the rejection on the JP reference, clarifying the rejected claims to exclude all of the pile being cut would render these claims allowable.

Claims 1-3 and 15-17 were rejected as anticipated by Martin, U.S. Patent No. 6,823,924. This rejection is not understood in that it shows only separate brushes on opposite sides of a screen is no more pertinent than the JP reference. Thus, these claims patentably distinguish over Martin for the same reasons as expressed in connection with the JP reference.

Favorable action, including allowance of all the apparatus claims, is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

Martin LuKacher
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 17,788

South Winton Court
3136 Winton Road South, Suite 301
Rochester, New York 14623
Telephone: (585) 424-2670
Facsimile: (585) 424-6196